

## **Chapter 10.15**

### **FOSTER HOME STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS**

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#### **10.15.010**    **Established.**

The Indian Child Welfare Committee hereby creates the Tribal Foster Home Standards and Requirements for the purpose of establishing standards for Tribal foster homes/families to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of the Karuk Tribe and its Indian families by fully exercising the Tribe's rights and responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978. [Res. 05-R-90, 7/20/2005.]

#### **10.15.020**    **Basic standards for foster families.**

It is the responsibility of Tribal Social Services Department to recruit, screen and license Indian foster homes. In considering Indian foster parents the primary consideration will be the parent's capacity to provide love and understanding to a child or children in distress. [Res. 05-R-90 § 1, 7/20/2005.]

#### **10.15.030**    **Basic requirements of foster families.**

Foster families shall meet the following personal criteria:

- (A) The age of foster parent(s) shall be a consideration only as it affects their physical capability, flexibility, and ability to care for a specific child.
- (B) A written statement from a physician, regarding the foster parents(s) and their children's general health, specific illness, or disabilities shall be a routine part of the study-evaluation process. Foster parent(s) and all other adults and the children present in the home shall submit a written report verifying that they have taken tuberculin tests and have been found free of disease; other tests may be required as indicated.

(C) Physical handicaps of foster parent(s) shall be a consideration only as it affects their ability to provide adequate care to foster children or may affect an individual child's adjustment to the foster family. Cases shall be evaluated on an individual basis with the assistance of a medical consultant when indicated. [Res. 05-R-90 § 2, 7/20/2005.]

### **10.15.040 Income of foster families.**

(A) When the agency does not have a plan for paying foster families a salary, it shall determine that the foster family's income is stable and sufficient for the maintenance of the family and reimbursement for the family and reimbursement for the foster family's own expenses.

(B) *Employment of Foster Parent(s) Outside the Home.*

(1) In two (2) parent homes it is preferable, in most instances, that both foster parents shall not be employed outside the home so that one (1) parent is available for the parenting the child requires. The agency shall make decisions regarding such situations on the basis of what is the best interest of the child.

(2) When a single parent or both parents in a two (2) parent home are employed, it is preferable that the home be used for school age children, and only when there are suitable plans (approved by the Agency) for care and supervision of the child after school and during the summer while parent(s) are at work. [Res. 05-R-90 § 3, 7/20/2005.]

### **10.15.050 Physical facilities.**

(A) Physical facilities of the foster home shall present no hazard to the safety of the foster child.

(B) Foster homes shall meet zoning and housing requirements and/or codes as set by the Karuk Tribe for individual family dwellings.

(C) Physical standards for the foster home shall be set according to individual living standards for the community in which the foster home is located; these standards shall be sufficient to assure a degree of comfort, which will provide for the well-being of the family and its self-respect in the community in which it resides.

(D) *Comfort and Privacy.*

(1) It is preferable for no more than two (2) children to share sleeping rooms.

(2) The sharing of sleeping rooms by children of the opposite sex is undesirable, especially for foster children who may be experiencing difficulties in the development of their sexual identities, attitudes, and behavior.

(3) Children, other than infants and during emergencies (illness), shall not share sleeping quarters with adults in the household.

(4) Individual space shall be provided for the child's personal possessions.

(5) In all instances when exceptions are necessary, these shall be for children under two (2) years of age or when special cultural, ethnic, or socioeconomic circumstances create a situation in which such exceptions will not be to the detriment of the child.

(E) Foster family homes shall be accessible to schools, recreation, other community facilities and special resources (such as medical clinics) as needed.

(F) If the home is otherwise suitable, the foster family shall be provided with all available assistance in meeting the above requirements, standards, and/or codes. [Res. 05-R-90 § 4, 7/20/2005.]

### **10.15.060 Family composition.**

(A) Two (2) parents shall be selected in most cases; however, single parents shall be selected when they can more effectively fulfill the needs of a particular child.

(B) The presence of other children (either own or foster), and other adults (i.e., grandparents, aunts, etc., or unrelated persons) shall be taken into consideration in terms of how they might be affected by or have an effect upon another child.

(C) The number and ages of children in a home (both own and foster) shall be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the foster parent's ability to meet the needs of all children present in the home, physical accommodations of the home, and especially the effect which an additional child would have on the family as a unit. It is preferable that:

(1) Foster parent(s) shall care for not more than two (2) infants (under two (2)); including the foster parent(s) own children.

(2) Foster families should not have more than a total of six (6) children, including foster children and foster parent's own children, in the foster home. Exceptions shall be made in order to keep siblings together.

(3) The age range of the children in a foster home shall be similar to that in a "normal" family in order to lessen competition and comparisons.

(4) All placement situations shall consider the effect of having some children in the foster home whose parents visit them and other children whose parents do not.

(5) A foster home shall not provide placements for more than one (1) agency at a time without a written agreement delineating the responsibilities of all parties involved. [Res. 05-R-90 § 5, 7/20/2005.]

### **10.15.070 Personal characteristics.**

Prospective foster parent(s) shall possess personal qualities of maturity, stability, flexibility, ability to cope with stress, capacity to give and receive love, and good moral character. Such characteristics are reflected in the following:

- (A) Psychosocial history, including significant childhood relationships and experiences (parent-child, sibling, or other relationships).
- (B) Role identification and acceptance.
- (C) Reactions to experiences of separation and loss (through death, desertion, etc.)
- (D) Education, employment, and patterns of interpersonal relationships.
- (E) General social, intellectual, and cultural level of the family.
- (F) Level of everyday functioning:
  - (1) Home and money management ability;
  - (2) Daily routine and habits;
  - (3) Reactions to stress.
- (G) Affective responses (ability to give and receive love, deal with loss, separation and disappointment, etc.)
- (H) Moral, ethical, and spiritual qualities of the family.
- (I) Religious affiliation and habits.
- (J) Hobbies, special interests, skills, and talents. [Res. 05-R-90 § 6, 7/20/2005.]

### **10.15.080 Foster parenting abilities.**

As assessment of prospective foster parent(s)' parenting ability regarding a specific child shall take into account the following:

- (A) Motivation for application at this time.
- (B) Characteristics and number of children best suited to foster family.
- (C) Existing family relationships, attitudes, and expectations regarding own children and parent-child relationships, especially where such existing attitudes and relationships might affect the foster child.
- (D) Attitudes of significant members of the extended family.
- (E) Ability to accept and love child as he/she is.
- (F) Capacity to absorb the child into family life functioning without undue disruption.
- (G) Capacity of parent(s) to provide for foster child's needs while giving proper consideration to own children.
- (H) Own children's attitudes towards accepting foster child.

- (I) Realistic assessment of positive and negative aspects of foster parenthood.
- (J) Personal characteristics necessary to provide continuity of care throughout child's need for placement.
- (K) Flexibility to meet changing needs over the course of placement.
- (L) Ability to accept child's relationship with own parent(s).
- (M) Ability to relate to neglecting and abusing natural parent(s).
- (N) Special ability to care for children with special needs (physical handicaps, emotional disturbances, etc.)
- (O) Areas in which ongoing social work assistance may be needed.
- (P) Ability to help a child return home or be placed for adoption and gain satisfaction for the experience. [Res. 05-R-90 § 7, 7/20/2005.]

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**The Karuk Tribal Code is current through Resolution 21-R-171, passed December 9, 2021.**

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